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USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS

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12 December 1984

USSR REPORT MILITARY AFFAIRS

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MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

OUTSTANDING REGIMENTAL PROPAGANDIST PROFILED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Oct 84 p 1

[Article by Lieutenant Colonel O. Nikonov: "A Taste For Creativity"]

[Text] Recently at the Ural Military District Political Department's Propaganda Section I caught sight of a brochure yellowed by age that was entitled "A New Mode Of Political Exercise". The brochure summarized the experience of regimental propaganda officer Captain V. Skrobov and the name seemed familiar so I thought a little. Was this officer related to the chief of the History of the CPSU department at Sverdlovsk Senior Military Political Tank Artillery School imeni L.I. Brezhnev? It turned out that he did and in the most direct manner. Professor and Doctor of Historical Sciences Colonel Viktor Semenovich Skrobov is that same former regimental propagandist.

Captain Skrobov had skillfully and purposefully instilled a creative approach to organizing political training in the regiment and had persistently taught group leaders to conduct activities in an interesting and lively manner and tied as closely as possible to the specific missions of the subunits and of each student. And to a large degree thanks to this the regiment got an excellent evaluation on the final test of political training. The young propagandist was praised in the district and KRASNAYA ZVEZDA wrote about his innovation. The essay was concisely, but voluminously entitled "Good Fortune".

Yes, fate had been fortunate to this son of a front-line soldier. This young village youth had dreamed of becoming an officer from childhood and this dream was realized. While at school he was attracted to the history of our state and of the Communist Party and he became a party member during his cadet years. This passion remained throughout his life. Instructors supported him and inculcated a taste for creativity in him.

He wrote his first scholarly work while a lieutenant. This work was devoted to party-political work in the Red Army units which fought in the Urals during the civil war and was well received. He was allowed to study at the Ural State University imeni A.M. Gorkiy by correspondence as an exception and he completed the course three years early. Studies as a post-graduate correspondence student and work on a post-graduate dissertation and its successful defense followed. And all of this was done along with his basic duty as a regimental propagandist, a job at which the officer was conscientious.

He had intended to combine service in the military with scholarly work yet some more but senior commanders thought otherwise. They felt it wasteful to keep this scholar in the regiment and so Skrobov was offered the job of instructing at a military school.

And again, as before, he totally devoted himself to persistent labors. He worked in the archives in Moscow, Sverdlovsk, Perm, Kirov and others and researched many documents, laboriously restored distant events, had meetings with party veterans and consultations with noted scholars. And the result was a doctoral dissertation which thoroughly reflected party activities in the Urals while Soviet power was being established and during the civil war.

But the main theme in his life became training future officer-political workers, the party's active, passionate workers, the skillful indoctrinators of soldiers. Colonel Skrobov has been teaching for almost 20 years and has been the department head for more than ten of them.

A friendly, creative collective of instructors who love the subject and thoroughly know every detail of it has formed under his leadership. But the main thing is that they skillfully pass this knowledge on to the students. The department conducts careful, specific accounts of each officer's real contribution to training and indoctrination and the effectiveness of this work is constantly analyzed. This creates a highly demanding and business-like atmosphere and it is apparent that the department's successes are primarily due to this atmosphere. This department has been recognized for many years as the school's best department and invariably Colonels V. Lokshin and V. Pavlov and Lieutenant Colonels V. Solodovnik, P. Govorukhin and M. Andreyev are named among the best instructors. And of course so is the department chief and bearer of the order "Worker of the Red Banner" Colonel V. Skrobov.

12511
CSO: 1801/33

MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

PARTY AUTHORITY IN MILITARY AFFAIRS DEFINED

[Editorial Report] Moscow KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL in Russian No 16, August 1984, signed to press on 3 August, carries on pages 9-17 an article by V. Bondar, Professor and Doctor of Historical Sciences, entitled "The CPSU-- The Leading and Guiding Force in the Battle for Communism." The article is intended as one in a series of items to be used during the current study year in the system of Marxist-Leninist education of officers under the study plan titled "Pressing Problems of Theory and Policy of the Party in Light of the Decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress."

The article sets out in a rather standard fashion the priorities and themes designed for party-political work in the Army and Navy, as for example, the upcoming publication of the new CPSU Program, the importance of economic and cultural work, efforts to improve agriculture in the non-black earth areas of the RSFSR, the importance of ideological upbringing work, etc. Near the end of the article, however, is the assertion that the party holds the deciding role not simply in the determination of military doctrine, but in other military concerns as well.

Bondar states: "Implementing its leading role, the party and its Central Committee work out the scientific basis of the program and principles of military construction, define the tasks of the Army and Navy, the path of their development. To the CPSU belongs the deciding role in the working out of the fundamental ideas in the area of military science, military doctrine and strategy, in the determination of the content of the forms and methods of the education and upbringing of personnel."

Bondar states further that: "In accordance with the achievements of military theory, science and practice, the party is constantly concerned that the organizational structure of the Soviet Army and Navy, the forms and methods of their training, the proportion of the service branches and Naval forces correspond to contemporary requirements."

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ARMED FORCES

SUCSESSES, SHORTCOMINGS IN TRAINING NOTED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Aug 84 p 1

[Editorial: Fulfill Commitments Completely]

[Text] The training year of the army and navy is drawing to an end. Now on the eve of summing up the military work of many months, every training pursuit has particular value and becomes a genuine test of combat maturity. The personnel of units and ships well realize this, devoting all of their strength and energy to fulfill training plans and programs, and obligations in socialist competition under the motto "Be on guard, in constant readiness to defend the achievements of socialism."

In field training exercises, conducted under conditions as close to combat as possible, the artillerymen of the battery commanded by Maj Ye. Rud' (Odessa Military District) achieved high results. The subunit successfully completed all the firing tasks. The gun crews displayed a high degree of coordination and the ability to operate at reduced strength and exceed established norms. Officers of the higher headquarters staff, conducting the controlled exercises, came to the conclusion that the combat training of the battery in this training year had increased markedly, and the personnel had done a great deal for the successful accomplishment of commitments.

Many other subunits, units, and ships approached their projected obligatory bounds in earnest. The work of personnel is particularly fruitful where the mobilizing role of competition is directed at resolving the major tasks of further raising combat readiness and the in-depth mastering of contemporary equipment and arms; and where the patriotic upsurge among the fighting men, summoned in preparation for the 40th anniversary of Victory of the Soviet Peoples in the Great Patriotic War is combined with the great organizational work of commanders, political organs, and staffs.

In units and on ships which have attained high showings consistently, all exercises are permeated with the intense struggle for exceeding norms, hitting targets with the first shot or launching, in the shortest period of time, and striving to get the most from the equipment. In the leading subunits, competition is an integral part of the whole process of instruction and training, and of the entire life of the collective. Competition with its publicity, comparison of results, and opportunity to use operationally right-flank experience,

does not allow personnel to delude themselves with their achievements, but develops high political and combat morale qualities in the fighting men and helps strengthen organization and discipline.

The system to control the course of fulfilling training plans and obligations in competition is being constantly improved. Much has been done in this regard in the current training year as well. In units and on ships, test exercises are carried out better, allowing the quality of working out more important and complex themes to be objectively evaluated. The role of staff officers, chiefs of the branches of troops and services, and flagship specialists in the training process has increased. The higher headquarters' staffs are checking units and ships more deeply and more thoroughly. All of this tells positively on the level of combat readiness and training of ground, air, and naval personnel. However, life demands a further increase in active testing. The occasion still exists, when during an examination the principal evaluation of the state of affairs in a unit or on a ship is not given, and they do not leave a deep track in the life of a fightingmen's collective.

The interests of combat readiness demand that testing leads not only to the revealing of shortcomings and omissions in the work of those examined, but brings to light their reasons and helps find realistic ways to increase the quality of the teaching and educational process, intensification of training and improvement of the organization of competition. The highly demanding nature of staff and political organ workers must combine with businesslike, objective assistance, and positive advice and recommendations.

Unfortunately, the mobilizing role of competition is not used effectively everywhere. Many lofty words were uttered on the day the commitments were taken in the tank regiment commanded by Lt Col Guards V. Klinovskiy (Moscow Military District). However, the corresponding organizational work did not follow the promises. Little care was shown for observing training schedules and rational use of a contemporary training base, or for creating an atmosphere of competition in resolving military training tasks and working out norms. Test exercises, conducted recently in the regiment, showed that the tankers' firing training was still far from that noted in their commitments. Several subunits received unsatisfactory evaluations in night firing.

At present there is no matter more urgent than the search for reserves which can effect, in the concluding weeks of the training year, a concentration of effort where deficiencies are found in personnel training and where the fulfillment of commitments appears threatened. There must not be a resting on one's laurels or complacency in a single subunit. It is necessary to give the most intense attention to individual work with people and to remind each again of his commitments and personal investment to the combat readiness of his unit or ship.

In the concluding stage of the training year, every activity is a new step in military improvement and verification of that which has been attained. Subunit commanders, the young ones especially, need the attention of their senior leaders and their help as never before. Much depends, these days, on staff positions. It is important to allot wisely the time and motorized resources remaining until the end of the year's training, and to accord each subunit the

opportunity to actively engage in objectives of the field training base, and to attain 100 percent inclusion of personnel in exercises. The job of the staff is not merely to gather information about the course of fulfilling commitments, but to give them a meaningful evaluation.

The fate of the commitments and results of the training year in large measure depend on combat ability (boyevitost'), purposefulness of party-political work, and close connection of educational measures with positive tasks, resolved by units and ships. At the same time it is important also to discuss in depth the results of competition in party and Komsomol meetings, to hear the accounts of communists and Komsomol members about the fulfilling of commitments, and collectively to seek out ways to raise the effectiveness of military training and to master new equipment and weapons more fully.

The weeks remaining until the end of this year's military training are numbered. It is necessary, as a thrifty master, to use each hour responsibly. To fulfill completely training plans, programs and commitments in the socialist competition, means celebrating the approaching 40th anniversary of Victory of the Soviet Peoples in the Great Patriotic War with the further raising of combat readiness of the army and strength of the navy.

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ARMED FORCES

MORE TECHNOLOGY URGED

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Sep 84 p 2

[Article by Major General A. Safronov, chief of the Department of Inventions, USSR Ministry of Defense: "Research Reference Points"]

[Text] One of the our society's most important social achievements is attracting millions of the country's workers and along with them soldiers of the Armed Forces to creative research. Certainly not all research leads to a discovery or an invention, but it gives man understanding of new, progressive things, leads to an even higher work culture and helps us understand the many-sided secrets of craftsmanship. Towards this goal, scientific-technical creativity that is skillfully and widely developed teaches us to see perspectives, to find the most reliable path to resolving missions that arise and leads to the discovery of talent.

Today the creative efforts of Army and Navy innovators are concentrated on resolving such important problems as increasing the combat effectiveness of armaments and military equipment, reducing the time for making them combat ready, developing a new material-technical training base and improving the existing one, increasing the quality of weapons repair and maintenance, improving the medical and economic-life support of the troops and saving state means and material valuables.

Every year Army and Navy innovators make a major contribution to accelerating scientific-technical progress. They develop thousands of inventions and hundreds of thousands of innovative recommendations, many of which find wide practical use not only in the forces and fleets but also in the country's economy. From year to year the scientific-technical level of exploitation is increasing and the share of inventions in the total number of technical decisions is growing.

The manufacturing of equipment, instruments and trainers centralized at the Armed Forces service military districts, fleets and groups of forces levels and their delivery to a unit or ship have begun to get a lot of attention. Invention and innovation have become an integral part of socialist competition.

One can judge the effectiveness of technical creativity by its results. Military innovators have done a lot to increase armament combat and

operational capabilities, mastery of new equipment and weapons, improvement of command and control means and organization, etc. New training complexes of various types, simulators and all sorts of means for making the training of personnel and the work on military equipment faster and easier, control and measuring equipment and progressive technology to restore component parts and assemblies, a special engineer transect and regulatitngon devices are widely used in the forces and fleets.

Thanks to the efforts of people with inquisitive minds many units and ships have saved fuel, electrical energy, equipment resources, expendable materials and other material valuables. Just one unit alone saved 42,000,000 kilowatt-hours of electrical energy, 620,000 tons of conventional fuel, 450,000 cubic meters of water and more than 600 tons of oil and lubricants. Officers V. Il'ichev, V. Svirko, P. Payusov, G. Suslov and R. Bekasov and Soviet Army employee Yu. Shubin and others made major, specific contributions to this savings.

The successes in these main research areas depend a lot on the wide dissemination of initiatives and advanced experience of the best collectives, and there are many of these in the Armed Forces. However, this does not mean that we can rest on our accomplishments. There is still major, strenuous work ahead and its success will depend on overcoming the shortcomings which unfortunately still exist as fast as possible.

We must recognize that technical creativity is still not getting the necessary attention everywhere and at times it is allowed to drift and isn't planned out. And if there are thematic plans, they are put together superficially, without taking into account the requirements and the probability of their being accomplished. At times specific tactical-technical demands are not indicated during exercises and the organizational work in carrying out these plans and the control over them are poorly executed.

These problems aren't new. They have been discussed many times already. Much has been done to change the situation, but at the same time in order to totally eliminate these deficiencies we must actively disseminate the experience that has already been accumulates. For example, units of the Transcaucasus Military District have inculcated a new approach to developing thematic plans. The basis of this is the analysis of equipment work which incorporates the peculiarities and specifics of the equipment's use in one unit or another under conditions that have been determined. This approach allowed a creative search for increased equipment reliability to be conducted in a purposeful manner. The Leningrad Military District has quarterly reports on the completion of thematic plans. This allows them to realize a high completion percent and if breakdowns occur, they can take specific measures to eliminate them in a timely fashion.

At times people try to justify the absence of exactingness and a critical approach to evaluating the state of technical creativity by objective reasons and by references to insignificant items. It turns out that many patents for inventions are refused because they lack innovation and at times many insignificant, ineffective inventions and innovative recommendations are

patented. There are serious violations of the existing orders for reward payments. For example, how do you explain the fact that a reward is paid for a proposal when there is neither an innovation nor an invention.

The other side of the coin is when an innovator initiative runs up against indifference and conservatism. At times valuable recommendations do not get the necessary support and the innovations are not implemented for an extended period. Tests conducted by Department of Inventions showed that in a number of centrally subordinated units the innovation instillation indicator did not exceed ten percent. And the technical information on the most valuable innovations was not put out everywhere. Unfortunately, this example is not unique.

Issues for radically improving the work of putting inventions and innovative recommendations into operation must become an object of special concern for commanders, staffs, political agencies and party and Komsomol organizations. We can have the maximum effect on this important matter if a specific decision is adopted for each invention or efficiency recommendation. This decision must include the sequence and length of time to realization, test and use determination, designation of responsible people to accomplish all the work and establishment of control over the course of its completion, ie, if all stages of the recommendation's progress from its development to its realization will be closely determined.

Practice shows that creative groups based on social origins and social design bureaus (this form of work has been best developed in PVO [Air Defense] Forces, the Kiev, Carpathian and Turkestan Military Districts, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany and in units and ships of the Pacific Fleet) are able to resolve problems in units most effectively in the shortest time.

To a large degree the effectiveness of technical creativity and its contribution to combat readiness depends on how effectively and reliably science ties in with practice. We have many collectives that have very solid and intrinsic ties not in words but in actuality. Major General I. Urlin, Colonel N. Bryantsev, Captain 2nd Rank G. Fedoruk, Major I. Shestakov and others head these collectives.

Concern for increasing the qualifications of workers associated with inventions and innovations must become a topic of attention. With the help of local VOIR [All-Union Society of Inventors and Efficiency Experts] soviets training in the preparation of patenters was organized in Strategic Rocket Forces and in a number of military training schools.

The Military Academy imeni F.E. Dzerzhinskiy jointly with the Public Patent Institute created a faculty course at the Military Academy. Students in this course get necessary knowledge. Also deserving of attention is the conduct of meetings for leadership personnel at which issues of technical creativity are resolved.

In short, we must consistently and purposefully strengthen discipline and responsibility for realizing plans and missions and become highly effective in

innovative research. This work depends a lot on the ability of commanders, staffs and the party and Komsomol organizations in units and ships to bring into operation those things which are figuratively called the humane prerequisites of technical creativity. These include enthusiasm, daring, high professional skill and the aspiration to reach the point where the words "done by Army and navy innovators" and "excellently done" are synonymous. All of this will promote an increased success of inventive and efficiency work and increased combat readiness. This is the primary orientation of research.

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ARMED FORCES

LETTERS TO KRASNAYA ZVEZDA EDITOR, RESPONSES

Air Squadron Competition Deficiencies

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Aug 84 p 2

[Article: "Following KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Coverage: 'The Fruits of Formalism'"]

[Text] That was the title of an article by Lt Col P. Chernenko published in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on 9 June. It criticized shortcomings in the organization of socialist competition in the air squadron commanded by Maj N. Bushmakin.

As the editors were informed by Lt Col V. Gudin, the facts were confirmed. Officers N. Bushmakin, S. Van'zha and Yu. Stolbinskiy were given instructions about a let-up in attention to the organization of socialist competition and on incomplete use of its mobilizing force to attain higher results in combat training. A seminar was held in the unit on the topic "Organization of socialist competition among flight and engineering-technical personnel during flights" for the purpose of preventing similar deficiencies. Recommendations were drawn up for summarizing results of each flight section and for arranging visual agitation. The summation of competition results in the subunits was placed under strict supervision by the unit commander and political department. The best subunits, groups and specialists for the month are announced in a unit order. The squadron commanded by Maj N. Bushmakin got back its previously lost positions during intensive training and competition.

Uniform Sewing Delays

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Sep 84 p 2

[Letter to editors by Col L. Varenik: "Three Meters of Serge for All"]

[Text] Pardon me for writing to the editors on a petty matter, as the saying goes. I received an order for sewing an everyday uniform. I traveled to the tailor shop of the Yaroslavl Military Exchange three times and each time they didn't take my order because of the absence of lining, which simply wasn't issued to me.

The appropriate superior to whom I turned for an explanation responded that three meters of serge had been issued for all: "Wait and perhaps we'll receive the serge for next year, and then you can have it sewn." And he extended my order until 1985.

Military Construction Supply Deficiencies

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Oct 84 p 2

[Article: "Following KRSNAYA ZVEZDA Coverage: 'They Put on the Brakes'"]

[Text] That was the title of the letter to the editors from Soviet Army worker Yu. Pshenov, which was published on 2 August. It told of deficiencies in the organization of labor and supply of materials to the comprehensive cost-accounting brigades in the military construction organization directed by Col A. Perepelitsa.

As the editors were informed by Col B. Siukhin, chief of the Far East Military District Construction Directorate, the facts cited in the letter had been checked. As a matter of fact, the work conditions of contract brigades, including the brigade headed by Yu. Pshenov, needed improvement.

Col A. Perepelitsa has been reprimanded for removing himself from resolving problems of assuring rhythmic work of the cost-accounting brigades. An expanded conference was held in the organization at which the work of cost-accounting brigades was analyzed and steps were outlined for remedying existing deficiencies in the organization of their labor and supply.

The appointed persons who allowed the damages as a result of negligence are being made answerable for disciplinary and material liability.

The newspaper article also was discussed at a party commission session and specific steps were developed for strengthening party influence on progress in adopting foremost forms for organizing the work of military builders.

Mandatory Supplementary Purchases Decried

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Oct 84 p 2

[Letter to editors by Capt 3d Rank A. Kamzarov: "Postcards in Addition"]

[Text] Dear Editors!

Insofar as I remember, the practice of selling scarce commodities with a mandatory addition of something for which there is no demand has been condemned repeatedly in the press. But one still encounters such practice locally. I recently went into our military bookstore on post and saw two books on the shelf: W. Shakespeare's "Tragedies" and A. Kuprin's "Granatovyy braslet" [The Garnet Bracelet]. But both were being sold with an extra--a set of postcards

and memoirs which, if memory serves me right, have been lying on the shelves for about two years. I bought one book with the postcards in addition and with these memoirs, but when I was offered the very same postcards and the very same memoirs for the second book, I refused. I said that if this is necessary, give them to me, but make it something different. But they didn't even want to listen; the saleswoman simply took the books back, and that was it.

A conversation with store manager N. Utkina also did not help although I explained to her that it was dumb to take one and the same "extra." And that form [of selling] in general is illegal.

Bus Scheduling Problems

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Oct 84 p 2

[Letter to editors by Z. Nikiforova and O. Shul'gina: "Waiting for the Bus"]

[Text] One bus travels between our post and the city. More than a hundred schoolchildren ride to the city school at 8:30. In addition to them, just as many young children ride this same bus to the kindergarten. Is it possible for all of them to depart? Of course not. The six-year-olds who now have entered first grade finish school at 10:30, and at this time the scheduled bus doesn't run.

The question of increasing the number of bus runs has been brought up repeatedly. It seemed that initially the city soviet ispolkom had accommodated us, but the chief of the motor transport enterprise began saying that this was unprofitable.

Is this problem really so complicated?

Complaint About Award Delay

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Oct 84 p 2

[Letter to editors from I. Yel'kina, Gorkiy: "Tired of Promises..."]

[Text] Dear Editors! The following events forced me to turn to the newspaper. I was recommended for the Valor medal during the Great Patriotic War, but didn't receive the award since I was in the hospital for a half-year. The award certificate was sent to my parents. I considered this document to have been lost for many years, but then after my father's death I accidentally found this certificate in his papers. I went to the Sovetskiy Rayon Military Commissariat of the city of Gorkiy and was received by Maj V. Mikheyev, who promised to look into everything.

After some time I inquired in the military commissariat about results and was told that confirmation of the award had arrived and I would be called...

But a year went by, then another and still no summons. I phoned and dropped into the military commissariat again, and again heard only the promises which I had heard before.

Ceremonies and Rituals Needed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Oct 84 p 2

[Letter to editors from Capt K. Medvedev, chief of flight TECh (technical maintenance unit), Central Group of Forces: "Such Forgetfulness..."]

[Text] Dear Editors!

I was prompted to write this letter by the following incident. Our unit recently saw off two officers to the reserve: deputy regimental commander Lt Col Yu. Vorob'yev and regimental navigator Lt Col P. Pavlov. They were seen off somewhat quietly and imperceptibly. There was neither a ceremonial formation nor a farewell with the military unit colors. Meanwhile, each of those released to the reserve had given the Armed Forces more than 30 years and had taught tens of skilled air warriors. Lt Col Pavlov had received the highest qualification—he became a military navigator-sniper. Such a "send-off" left a very bitter feeling in our hearts.

I write about this because such an incident is not rare in our regiment, although it is hardly necessary to prove how much our traditions and Army rituals mean for bringing up soldiers. Take the farewell to the military unit colors for example. This ritual is always exciting, it forces the heart to beat fast and prompts high feelings in the soul.

I have served on many posts and have seen more than once how privates, NCO's, warrant officers [praporshchiki] and officers bade farewell to the colors. I am sure that these instants when they pressed down to the crimson silk of the sacred military article remained in their hearts.

I won't tell about our unit's entire history. I will mention only the present. The aviators are creating the regiment's fame through strenuous military work. Tens of them have been awarded orders and medals for mastery of modern equipment and for successes in combat and political training. Lt Col V. Kondrashov, our unit's former political department chief, was a delegate to the 26th CPSU Congress and there in Moscow he was presented the Order "For Service to the Motherland in the USSR Armed Forces" 3d Class. The unit constantly shows high results in combat training. So that there are both affairs and people about whom not only we, but also those who will come after us must know. But ask anyone when our unit was formed and what banner milestones lie along its path and there are few who will give an intelligible answer.

We don't have a combat glory room. It is true that people say one is planned. One would think that the photograph where unit veteran military navigator-sniper, Lt Col (Res) Pavel Ivanovich Pavlov would be bidding farewell to the

colors would have the right to be placed on one of the displays, but there will unfortunately not be such a photo.

I still remember the day (it was back in the Order of Lenin Leningrad Military District) when I, a young technician, was presented an aircraft log by my commander, now HSU Col V. Pavlov, with kind words in parting. In the Central Group of Forces where I now serve the motorized riflemen, tankmen and artillerymen are presented a weapon named for Heroes of the Soviet Union. In general there are many traditions and rituals, but our unit is oblivious of them.

Not long ago helicopter technician Lt Yu. Bogdanov and his comrades passed tests for authorization for independent servicing of aviation equipment, they signed for receiving the logs and began work. This is an important stage in the career of young aviators, but even this even passed without solemn words and congratulations. On the other hand, many commanders soon began to notice deficiencies in the young technicians' work. But just who will touch that string in their hearts which has to sound an elevated tone of pride in their profession?

And further, we have in our leaders' display the portraits of the best specialists and skilled methodologists. But not one soldier from the regiment's technical maintenance unit can be seen among them, although this is a foremost subunit and has genuine experts in their jobs such as, for example, master of combat qualification Capt A. Plevo.

We often hear the correct words: "Bring up subordinates on the grand combat traditions." This is a very necessary and true call. Just why don't all of us follow it?

Complaint About Disrespectful NCO's

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Oct 84 p 2

[Letter to editors by Z. Parfinovich, Rostov Oblast, and response: "Steps Taken in Response to Readers' Signals: The Guilty Parties were Punished"]

[Text] Some time ago we saw off our son for Army service. Of course we were worried about how relationships with colleagues would shape up for him. In his letters our son tells about his first successes in training and about the difficulties he has encountered. Strange as it may seem, he also tells about the disrespectful attitude of some junior commanders toward young soldiers. This news cannot help but worry us parents.

Z. Parfinovich, Rostov Oblast

Dear Comrade Parfinovich! The editors requested the political directorate of the Central Group of Forces to check out the facts stated in your letter. Maj Gen N. Shlyaga, first deputy chief of the political directorate, announced that some junior commanders in the unit where your son serves were treating

the young replacements not always in a respectful manner, and at times even crudely. Sergeants A. Kharin, V. Praded and P. Kolotay were relieved of their positions and held accountable by the Komsomol for a violation of regulation requirements. Subunit commanders Capt V. Seleznev and Sr Lt N. Nikitin, who relaxed indoctrinational work with subordinates, were given disciplinary punishment. The deficiencies about which your son wrote have been remedied at the present time.

New Mother's Financial Problems

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Oct 84 p 2

[Letter to editors by T. Vasyukova, Bryansk: "Steps Taken in Response to Readers' Signals: Red Tape"]

[Text] In connection with the birth of a child I was forced to leave my job in one of the military units of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany and return to the Motherland. The necessary documents for obtaining monetary benefits arrived in the finance service promptly, back in January of this year. Since then I have been giving a reminder of myself and asking the command element to transfer the money owed me by law, i.e., to show concern for a young mother and her child. Strange as it may seem, there is a dead silence in response. But people's conscience must have something to say sometime.

Dear Comrade Vasyukova! In response to the editors' query the unit commander announced that Sr Lt V. Zinchenko, chief of the finance service, is the chief culprit for the many months of red tape. He was given a strict reprimand for a negligent attitude toward performance of official duties. You have been sent the monetary benefits. The personal file of Party Member Zinchenko will be reviewed at the next session of the unit party buro.

Conductor's Rudeness Punished

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Oct 84 p 2

[Letter to editors from N. Kotyreva, Ulyanovsk: "Steps Taken in Response to Readers' Signals: Incident in a Train Car"]

[Text] The incident in the center of which I recently found myself cannot be called anything but an outrage. My young nephew and I were returning home by train to Ulyanovsk. We had boarding tickets, and there were three seats in the train car. But despite my request and the requests of the other passengers, the car conductor and train chief K. Ilebayev categorically refused to give us the seats. Moreover, the officials degraded and insulted me, an elderly person and a participant of the Great Patriotic War, in the presence of others. I still remember this scene in the car with tears in my eyes.

Dear Comrade Kotyreva! The editors immediately sent your alarming letter to the USSR Ministry of Railways. The cited facts were checked out on its behalf by the Frunze Office of the Alma-Ata Railroad. A response signed by office chief S. Soodonbekov states that train chief K. Ilebayev was give a strict reprimand for not taking steps to give seats to passengers and for an indifferent attitude toward their requests. He also was warned that with a repetition of violations in serving passengers, stricter measures of punishment would be applied to him, including even being relieved of his position.

Unauthorized Sauna

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Oct 84 p 2

[Article by KRSNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lt Col M. Ziyemin'sh, Red Banner Volga Military District: "In the Wake of a Letter: The Machinators"]

[Text] When Col A. Strelyayev left for a new duty station remarks were exchanged among those who saw him off:

"Arkadiy Ivanovich left a good memory..."

"What do you mean, memory? It can be said that he left a monument for himself on post."

What kind of "monument" was meant? The person had in mind a new children's complex with the poetic name "Swallow." Maj G. Gallyamov, one of the unit officers, wrote as follows in the district newspaper about this complex: "Officers, Soviet Army employees and servicemen's wives put in very much work and sincere warmth in its construction. It can be said without exaggeration that the building of the complex was a local construction project of all the people." The author even calculated that post residents had worked almost 4,000 hours on a voluntary basis at the new construction site.

I was in "Swallow." Frankly speaking, the complex deserves a good word. It is cozy, beautiful and full of light there. A fairytale compound around it also would be pleasing to those connected with its creation. A person arriving is struck by an iron casting which is such a patterned rectangle, athletic facilities on both sides of a central path, manmade hills, and statuesque yellow animals seemingly chiselled out of amber.

When people in the unit developed the project for the artistic arrangement of the kindergarten-nursery, the district KEU [billeting directorate] rejected it as being too costly. Nevertheless, Lt Col Kh. Khanikov, chief of the local KECh [billeting unit], approved the estimate. Construction was carried out not at all on a voluntary service basis, but at the expense of centralized sources. Now it has been calculated down to the last kopeck what the fairytale compound cost. There were 43,198 rubles spent just for paying for the specialists' work.

At the same time, a residence in the military compound, where the problem with housing has not yet been resolved, was being erected extremely slowly. The builders were standing idle due to weak organization of the job and spasmodic delivery of construction materials. Col A. Strelyayev was little troubled by these costs.

And still one of the readers probably will say that in this instance it is not worthwhile to raise the question of an unreasonable expenditure of funds. The people weren't concerned about themselves. In the final account a wonderful children's establishment will remain on the remote post, for the joy of children and their parents.

And I wasn't forced to take up the pen by the "fairytale compound," although an authoritative commission deemed its construction as a serious violation of financial discipline. Another less eye-catching facility was being built simultaneously with the kindergarten-nursery. It was not specified at all by planning estimates. There was only a general diagram approved by Col Strelyayev. It was a secret for many what kind of a facility it was and what funds were being used to build it, but not for everyone. For example, Maj N. Bochugov knew that the secret facility was nothing other than a sauna.

The sauna turned out to be spacious, cozy and quiet. It was finished with the very same refined taste as the neighboring "fairytale compound." It had a micropool, electronic clock and telephone in the lounge.

Who was this facility intended for? It was for a very narrow circle of trusted persons. Maj Bochugov was a member of this circle and used the free services of the sauna without expressing indignation. Later Maj Bochugov was excluded from the "narrow circle" for unknown reasons and access to the sauna was closed for him. Nikolay Yegorovich was indignant and set to writing a letter to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. He decided to display principle, as the saying goes.

Now some people assert that the sauna was built for broad public needs and on a purely voluntary basis. Not a ruble allegedly was needed for building it. It is just vague where the "public" acquired the soft covering for floors, contemporary equipment for water supply and electric heating, and the control panel.

One might wonder whether there is a connection between the superb invisible sauna and the chronic additions to which the unit resorted and which were uncovered by a commission from higher headquarters headed by Lt Col V. Chupin. Thanks to the additions the unit invariably was among the leaders in recent years. The amount of illegally paid bonuses consisted of more than 2,000 rubles over a short time. It was also a practice to make out a bonus for one of the workers, but pay out only a symbolic ten rubles for signing. The other bonus money would go into other hands. The specialists with whom I had occasion to consult say that it is also impossible to accurately determine the actual cost of the work to design the children's complex. By the way, it was handled by a brigade of private workers headed by one A. Polivanov. Five people were working, but in addition to them just as many people received wages whom no one in the unit had seen even once.

There is not a word about the sauna in the summary documents drawn up in the audit of the unit's financial and administrative activity. It was as if it was not present. The specialists did not discern a connection between the extremely costly children's complex and the sauna. But there is such a connection. Referring to the needs of the complex, the unit commander repeatedly requested the heads of the local military exchange for construction materials. He wasn't refused, and it turned out that several large lots of scarce construction materials such as roofing shingles and ruberoid slipped away to other organizations. It stands to reason that this was not without profit for those who got rid of them.

It remains to be said in conclusion that the official abuses and financial violations mentioned above occurred in view of unit party members and people's controllers. But they are being given a fundamental assessment only now, after the auditors' conclusions became known. Were the principle not belated, the abuses and machinations could have been nipped in the bud.

Tailor Shop Problems Resolved

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Oct 84 p 2

[Article: "Following KRSNAYA ZVEZDA Coverage: 'How the Trousers were Sewn'"]

[Text] A letter from Maj A. Listov was published under that title on 30 August. As the editors were informed by Lt Col Ye. Kruglov, chief of trade directorate of the Moscow Garrison, the facts cited in the letter did occur. A. Frolov, director of the Moscow Experimental Military Clothing Store, was given strict instructions about weak supervision over the branch's work. Branch manager P. Zamazkina was reprimanded and cutter V. Lukashov was given a severe reprimand for an irresponsible attitude toward their official duties and poor culture of services.

Meetings were held in all tailor shops of the Moscow Garrison trade directorate on problems of improving the culture of services and following established time periods for filling orders.

Illegal War Participant's Certificates

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Oct 84 p 2

[Article: "Following KRSNAYA ZVEZDA Coverage: 'Such Credulity...'"]

[Text] The satirical article by Col A. Drovosekov published by that title on 2 August told about instances of violations of established rules for issuing war participant certificates by workers of a number of military commissariats.

Maj Gen V. Shalupov, Tyumen Oblast military commissar, informed the editors that the newspaper's coverage was discussed with all city and rayon military commissars of Tyumen Oblast. Attention was directed to the need for strict observance of demands specified by the appropriate statute on issuance of the war participant's certificate.

An inspection established that a war participant's certificate had been issued by the Yamalo-Nenetsk Okrug Military Commissariat to V. Stukanenkov, who had concealed the fact of high treason. The certificate was confiscated from Stukanenkov and he reimbursed for damages to the state for use of transportation at a preferential rate.

The receipt of several war participant's certificates by A. Grishin became possible as a result of the negligent attitude of some officials to the performance of their duties. For example, Lt Col L. Tsvyrko, the Surgut City Military Commissar, issued a certificate to Grishin although the latter was not registered in the city of Surgut. A certificate was written for Grishin by Yamalskiy Rayon Military Commissar Maj L. Ushatyy in the very same manner without registration in the given locality. A certificate also was issued to Grishin without observance of the demand for registration in the Yamalo-Nenetsk Okrug Military Commissariat.

Those guilty of an irresponsible attitude toward issuing the war participant's certificates were strictly punished. A people's court sentenced Grishin to a lengthy term of imprisonment for misappropriating state funds by forging documents and for fraud.

The response by Col V. Lisitsyn, chief of political department of the Tatar ASSR Military Commissariat, states that meetings of the personnel were held in all republic military commissariats based on the newspaper's coverage. Guidance documents were studied and tests were given for officers and employees engaged in writing war participant's certificates. An inspection showed that A. Akhramenkov received the jubilee medals illegally several years ago through the fault of some workers of the Kirovskiy RVK [Rayon Military Commissariat], who had not shown proper vigilance.

Officer Dormitory Deficiencies

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Oct 84 p 2

[Letter to editors by Gds Lt I. Shilenko, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "Where Can One Drink Tea?"]

[Text] Dear Editors! I would like to tell about our officers' dormitory in which I have been living for a year now. Generally and on the whole I and other comrades are satisfied by the everyday conditions here. The rooms have everything necessary for normal life; there is a place to read a book and listen to the radio. A convenient shower helps relieve fatigue and wash off the range dust.

All this represents the plusses, as the saying goes. But in my opinion there also are deficiencies which should be mentioned. Take the lounge. It has a table and easy chairs seemingly inviting one to sit down, unfold today's newspaper and chat with a friend. But it would be desirable to see a television set here as well: it is the very place for it. Judge for yourselves; it is not always justified to keep one in the room where we live, for you don't turn

on the set when one of your comrades is resting after duty or preparing for classes. But a television set wouldn't bother anyone in the common room.

Or take the following problem. It is common knowledge that an officers' dining room operates at strictly set hours. But sometimes a person has to linger on duty until late. And so it happens that there is nowhere even to drink tea and have sandwiches. True, some of the officers contrive to keep a hot plate in the rooms, which is forbidden. This is fully correct: Is disaster far off?

And one other detail of no small importance. Everyone knows that after a field exercise clothing must be placed in order--dried and ironed. There is also no place for this in the hotel. The one hope in such cases is the heat registers which are in the rooms.

Perhaps to some these problems will seem minor and undeserving of attention, but we officers have a different opinion. The fact is that the mood in which one goes to work depends on them.

6904

CSO: 1801/39

ARMED FORCES

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA SOLICITS READERS' INPUT

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Sep 84, p 4

[Article: "To the Readers of 'Krasnaya Zvezda'"]

[Text] Dear Readers!

The year 1985 is approaching. According to established tradition, we again turn to you with the question: how would you like to see KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in the new year?

The year 1985 is the year of preparation for the next, 27th CPSU Congress and completion of work on accomplishing the plans of the 11th Five-Year Plan. Just as formerly, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA will constantly publish materials devoted to the explanation and propagandizing of our party's theory and practice and to the showing of socialism's historic achievements, its advantages, and the heroic labor of the Soviet people in accomplishing the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the subsequent plenums of our party's Central Committee.

The 40th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War is approaching. The country is noting this glorious date as a national holiday and as an event of tremendous historical significance. The heroic spirit of the great victory and the exploit of the front and rear occupy a large place in the plans of the editorial collective. The readers' recognition was received by the page "Exploit" and materials under the headings "Memory of the Fiery Years," "Little Known Pages of the War," "A Word About the Frontline Fighters," "Thy Heroes, Motherland!", "Search," and others. By the way, dear comrades, more than 5,000 letters were received from you for "Search." Many of them were published. In the future, too, the editors will render assistance in the search for your combat friends and brother-soldiers and will tell of the exploits, courage, and steadfastness of the participants in the Great Patriotic War. War veterans will appear in the newspaper with their reminiscences and articles of prominent military leaders and political officers concerning significant events at the front will be published. We will offer space on the pages of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA to former partisans, underground fighters, and heroes of the rear.

By tradition, the primary space in the newspaper will be allotted to the combat training of the troops and naval forces, to problems in field, sea, and aerial training and the development of officer personnel, and to showing the indoctrinational role of the Armed Forces and the romance of military service. We will tell

about those who, being the equivalent of the frontline fighters, are vigilantly protecting the inviolability of our state borders, are performing their international duty with honor in friendly Afghanistan, and who are always ready to step forth for the defense of socialism and peace together with their brothers-in-arms of the Warsaw Pact member countries on the first call.

In each edition of the newspaper we will acquaint the readers with masters of soldierly deeds and leading people of the Armed Forces. What seems to you to be successful in these publications and what causes dissatisfaction? About representatives of which military specialties would you like to read in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA?

Treatment of problems in ideological, party-political, and indoctrinational work in the Armed Forces was and remains one of the newspaper's basic orientations. We would like to hear your opinion on the effectiveness of published materials on these subjects and on what assistance they give the ideological personnel of the Armed Forces and party and Komsomol activists.

In KRASNAYA ZVEZDA a prominent place is always allotted to showing the Leninist foreign policy of the Soviet Union, international events, and the life of the workers and armies of the countries in the socialist commonwealth. In the future, too, the newspaper will participate actively in exposing the aggressive policy of imperialism and, first of all, of the United States, and its ideological sabotage against the USSR and the countries of the socialist commonwealth.

Write and tell us which questions of international policy especially interest you.

We would like you to express your opinions, desires, and remarks on the quality of the materials being published under the headings "People of an Important Fate," "The Commander of a Regiment (Ship): Post and Personality," and "Dialogue: Reader-Newspaper."

Just as formerly, the newspaper will devote great attention to the military and patriotic indoctrination of the rising generation and the work of the military commissariats and the military instructors of schools and vocational and technical schools.

For more than a year already KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has been coming out on Saturdays in six pages. The most vivid and interesting materials from the combat chronicle of our Armed Forces and on the heirs of the frontline fighters, today's routine days of heroes of past battles, and reserve and retired officers are published in the insert. The insert also publishes the reminiscences of war veterans, surveys and articles on moral and ethical subject matter, poems, stories and excerpts from narratives and novels, and articles by prominent Soviet scientists, designers, and cosmonauts.

What new subjects would you like to see in the insert and which authors would you advise be invited to prepare articles?

We will continue to tell about the creativity of figures of literature and art under the headings "Dugout" and "Meetings on your Request." It is believed

that commentaries of writers under a new heading, "The People's War Took Place," will also interest the readers.

The range of questions concerning the service, life, and living conditions of servicemen and the members of their families is varied and broad. The editors hope that together with the author activists and with all readers we will be able to make the newspaper more interesting and one which considers more completely the needs of our country's servicemen and workers.

We await your suggestions, advice, and desires, dear readers.

Remember our address: 123826 GSP, Moscow, D-317, Khoroshevskoye shosse, 38. We request that you place the note "Readers' Council-85" on the envelope.

The Editorial Board of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA

6367

CSO: 1801/8

GROUND FORCES

DEVIATION FROM TRAINING SCHEDULES, FALSE REPORTS ASSAILED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Sep 84 p 2

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Maj I. Yesyutin, Red Banner Belorussian Military District: "Counting on Rush Work"]

[Text] The Komsomol committee secretary of the regiment arrived at the tank gunnery range at the height of firing. He brought certificates he had hoped to award the winners of the competition with here in the field. The certificates were beautifully designed. There were signatures and seals on them. The names of the outstanding individuals remained to be filled in.

Alas, the presentation did not take place....

The battalion commanded by Guards Maj A. Ptushka has a good reputation in the Guards Tank Znamenskiy Regiment. It successfully completed the winter training period. At the unit (chast') headquarters they figured it could also end the training year with high results.

On what were these assumptions based? The battalion was commanded by an experienced and demanding officer. The personnel always acted selflessly in the summing up exercises. The tankmen were seriously preparing for testing during the current training year.

However, having visited the battalion at a number of classes, I did not see prosperity and indicators close to those outlined in the obligations. Rather, I saw the opposite and was convinced that prior to the end of the year there were a great many unresolved problems in the subunit (podrazdeleniye).

For example, qualification firing went as follows. In the first run, as prescribed, the company commander performed the exercise. Only Guards Capt S. Ryabokonev managed to hit the target. Guards Capt Ye. Khryskov and Guards Sr Lt P. Ostrovskiy could not handle the task.

On the instructions of the exercise director, the instruments and mechanisms were checked again, but the firing results were no higher.

"It's all a matter of the area," complained the annoyed Guards Capt S. Ryabokonev. "Today we are forced to fire at an area of the tank gunnery range that we are not used to. Everything goes much better at our own area."

Yes, it was apparent that the tankmen did not feel comfortable at the "strange" field. But, really, is it always possible to choose the place where you will encounter the enemy in a real battle? Really, should a commander consider his subordinates trained if they fire confidently at "their own" sector of the range, but at an adjacent one are glad to get even a satisfactory score?

Guards Maj A. Andreyev, acting regimental chief of staff, and I look over the combat training record documents. We take note that back in the unit commander's order on the results of winter training substantial shortcomings were noted in the organization of the tank gunnery training sessions. Specifically, it was noted that in a number of subunits they were conducted in a simplified manner, unimaginatively.

Had this shortcoming been eliminated in the summer months? No. A little more than half of the time allotted for training sessions by the training schedule had been used.

"We are trying to work on those problems which have a bearing on the summing up exercises," Guards Maj A. Andreyev tries to explain the situation.

In other words, preference is given to the subjects considered "primary" and planned, regular training is replaced by "coaching". But when every second tank gunnery training session is not held, firing at an adjacent sector of the range becomes a problem and the gunners are deprived of psychological stability.

There is also another, no less important, reason for the deficiencies in the fire training of the tank crew members. The aforementioned order of the regiment commander emphasized the need for increasing the effectiveness of socialist competition and more active implementation of the experience of the best commanders and specialists. This is a very vital point. Among the platoon commanders in the battalion there are officers who have been called up from the reserve. Not all of them are able to create an atmosphere of competitiveness and struggling to exceed the norms and to perform the exercises and tasks in an excellent manner at the exercises. The young officers need the experience of skilled methodologists like they need air.

Needless to say, the regiment has such experience. And you cannot say that the staff and political apparatus of the regiment are not engaged in generalizing it. I saw tidy cases with materials disclosing the secrets of the best commanders and skillful organizers of the training process and competition. There is a rather detailed description of the work methods of commanders whose subordinates constantly show high results in firing. Of unquestionable interest, let's say, is the phased method of forming the skills of gunners used by Guards Sr Lt Ye. Serdyukov--one of the best company commanders.

But in the battalion commanded by Guards Maj A. Ptushka, we did not hear about cases kept in the headquarters safes or about the phased method.

It seems, the staff officers did not pass on the progressive methods of fire training and generalized the leading experience. Their work has not been of any benefit because they did not follow their generalization with propaganda and assimilation. There were no staff representatives at this firing which the tankmen considered to be a check. After all, it is interesting to see what the leading battalion of the regiment is capable of on the eve of the concluding check.

The very organization of the firing indicated that all the hopes of the subunit were related to rush work at the end of the year. The training positions prescribed for such exercises were not built. True, Guards captains Ye. Khryskov and S. Ryabokonev wore exercise director armbands on their sleeves at the training positions, but they spent their time in one place--in the smoking area. They also had no plans for working out training problems approved of by the battalion commander.

All of this, unfortunately, remained out of the field of vision of the regimental headquarters, and for that matter so did the shortcomings in organizing other exercises. At the headquarters they judge the quality of the training process mainly according to written reports from the subunits. But they do not always reflect the truth.

It was required, for example, to clarify the results of the last firing in the battalion. According to the headquarters training data, those who were not at the exercise achieved high results.

An error? Guards Maj V. Grachev, the subunit chief of staff, explained it all by the "complicated tactical situation". Supposedly, personnel often have to leave scheduled exercises, including firings. If we had to reflect all of this in the registers and in the written reports sent to regimental headquarters, they would "always be counting heads". So, "satisfactory" reports are made up and the necessary "gloss" is put on the logs.

In actuality, the departure of personnel from training is significant. At the firing in question, only 63 percent of the individuals who were supposed to perform the exercise were there. Of the platoon commanders, only Guards Lt K. Medovskiy attended. Where were the rest?

At regiment headquarters they explained that Guards Lt A. Kharitonov, for example, had been working with a group of soldiers at the training center for 2 weeks already. This is reflected in the appropriate order for the unit, that is, it was legitimate. But neither the officer nor his group of soldiers were at the training center. The tank crew members were working in patronage. Another platoon commander had not been seen in the battalion for a long time--Guards Lt A. Yusupov. He is on permanent duty at the garrison's military automobile inspection. They could not say at the headquarters who was working with the platoon during this time. There were no convincing explanations concerning the absence of other officers at the exercises either. Should one be surprised after this that the results of the first officer runs at the tank

gunnery range were not at all what we are accustomed to and not the kind we have a right to expect.

The Komsomol committee secretary of the regiment left the test range very downcast. There was no one to present the certificates to, and the situation did not help this either. The young tank crew members also were embarrassed with their unsuccessful firing.

I would like to believe that the festive moment of rewarding the best of the best has simply been put off to the future and that the battalion personnel will yet make a showing in sniping fire.

Experience proves that it is impossible to master modern combat equipment and weapons at one swoop. Planned, purposeful training and strict and absolute fulfillment of training plans and schedules are necessary. Everything must be subordinate to this. In the battalion, unfortunately, with the knowledge of the commander and regimental headquarters, combat training has been ranked equally with tasks less significant for combat readiness. But close to the end of the training year, making up for neglect, they applied themselves to practical firings. They used up their entire allocation of ammunition. As we see, they did not get the desired result.

The day after the firing, classes on engineer training and protection against weapons of mass destruction were called for in one of the battalion's companies. However, the company was sent to the armored fighting vehicle park to put it in order. There a demonstration was prepared, of which they knew about in advance at the headquarters. Irregularity, breaking plans and disregarding the schedule cannot help but have an effect on the quality of the training process. Where there is rush work, there are deficiencies.

12567

CSO: 1801/025

GROUND FORCES

MORE DIFFICULT, COMPLICATED FIRING CONDITIONS IMPROVE SCORES

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Sep 84 p 2

[Article by Lt Col M. Lishniy, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, under the rubric "With the Initiators of Competition": "Consistency"]

[Text] The command of Cpt V. Konovalov, senior range officer and battalion HQ chief, sounded in the earphones, and immediately the line of armored personnel carriers started up and moved toward the targets.

The hand on the stop-watch was still counting off the allotted time for completing the exercise, when the team had finished firing. The targets had been hit.

"These gunner-operators were given less time for firing than the exercise conditions called for," noted Cpt Konovalov, as he handed the scoring list with entries by the names of the firers to regimental chief of staff Major O. Bocharov. "As you can see, they were successful. Now we will make the exercise even more difficult: for the next group of firers, we are putting up two additional targets for each. The firing time will remain the same...."

Another run. PFC's Ye. Shatrov and V. Sova, completed the exercise with excellent marks, saved on both time and ammunition, and managed to hit all the additional targets: PFC S. Verzilov hit one.

"Well, then", a smiling Major Bocharov turned to the company commander St Lt O. Andrianov, "we're happy with the results. But during the final exercises the conditions will be no less difficult."

Firing under difficult and complicated conditions, which this article is about, was held at the end of the exercise. At the beginning of the moving-target gunnery range everything was normal for the APC's of the Proskurovskiy motorized rifle regiment--the organizer of the ground forces competition. The company under the command of Sr Lt Andrianov completed the qualification exercise from both short halts and on the move against pop-up and moving targets. The exercise was completed with ease. Twelve firers--twelve outstanding scores. And after the company had fired, they decided to conduct a unique experiment--to see how the motorized riflement would act under more complicated circumstances.

This "reserve of strength" turned out to be sound. And no wonder: the company constantly shoots the weapons both of the BMP and their own with outstanding scores.

To what can one attribute this consistency? In order to better understand this, let us take a small trip into the past. At the beginning of the year the regimental headquarters, in analyzing the course of combat training in the sub-units, noted several irregularities in the firing records. Among those who were lagging behind in the number of firing exercises conducted was the company under the command of Sr Lt Andrianov. When he was asked about this, the officer answered:

"We don't want to just burn ammunition. First we master the theory thoroughly, then we learn to operate on weaponry and only then do we fire."

Andrianov's words were greeted with understanding back at the headquarters. In reality, just for the sake of completing the firing plan, several officers ignored the methodological approach in training their subordinates. Nothing good could come from this.

However, there was skepticism regarding Andrianov's words. The first company, it was said, was first only on paper. But afterwards, when the company went out on the qualification exercise, which was held by the regimental headquarters, the skeptics had to bite their tongues. Andrianov's subordinates appreciably outperformed the soldiers of other sub-units in their ability to operate equipment and weaponry, meet standards, and solve firing problems. The company gunner-operators managed to get off three aimed rounds each in the time that it took the other sub-units to get off two. And the company got more outstanding scores than its competitors.

If one talks about the "secret" of success of Sr Lt Andrianov's company in firing training, one cannot help but notice this element in the style of his work. Sr Lt Andrianov persistently tries to see to it that there is no slackening off or oversimplification in the training of his personnel. He demands that the officers not teach the soldiers and NCO's as a group, which happens at time, but individually. He also requires that the officers not just develop the skills necessary, let us say, for shooting, but thoroughly understand the theory and rules of fire, learn to conduct trouble-shooting, and fire accurately under conditions which are as close as possible to a tactical situation.

This is a tough requirement. But it can't be any other way. Having such an approach to teaching subordinates helped the officers to quickly eliminate gaps in fire training at the beginning of the summer training period. By teaching subordinates under conditions in which time is strictly limited, with significant moral-psychological and physical stresses, they accomplish a lot, as the qualification exercise showed. The company gunners have a firm knowledge and skill in their mastery of equipment and weaponry, and met the firing training standards with room to spare. But the most important thing--everyone learned how to shoot well. Thus, in this qualification exercise

the gunner-operators showed that they could hit one and a half as many targets as the firing course called for and still remain within the allotted time and ammunition norms.

One could ask: Why is this necessary? For an outstanding grade, isn't it enough to hit the number of targets which the regulations call for? But is it really just a question of scores? All the company officers, as well as all the military personnel of the competition-initiating regiment, have a strong opinion on this subject: one cannot err on the side of weakness and oversimplification as far as requirements go; things can and even should be made more complicated.

One should note that the company under Sr Lt Andrianov is far from being the only one of the regiment's sub-units which distinguishes itself with high scores in weapons training. The regimental headquarters is doing a lot to make the experience of its best firers a general occurrence. For instance, the firing conferences and demonstration exercises are conducted in an interesting and instructive fashion. In all the sub-units the firing and technical circles, in which the experience of the best specialists is studied, work energetically and successfully.

Pf course, more can be done. In particular, the rate of progress in the professional skills of the officers still leaves something to be desired. Since the experience of the best specialists in the first battalion, commanded by Cpt K. Allikas, is being studied and effectively put into practice, the results are clear. Just recently four officers, five warrant officers, and six NCO's and soldiers raised their scores. Moreover, St Lieutenants Ye. Shavrov, S. Boldin, and V. Radionov became specialists first class. In other battalions the number is lower.

Now the regiment is actively working toward this goal. Naturally, the more effective the efforts aimed at eliciting unused reserves in increasing combat skill, the better the final results will be.

CSO: 1801/028

GROUND FORCES

IMPROVED COMBAT PROFICIENCY NEEDED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Sep 84 p 1

[Article by Captain N. Gorokhov, commander of an anti-aircraft missile battalion: "To Whom Are Quotas Submitted"]

[Text] The launcher battery commanded by Captain I. Petrukhin had achieved the rank of outstanding for two years in a row and you could state with conviction that they would reach this high achievement again this year. The launcher crews had marks in all training subjects that aroused good-natured envy among their competition rivals and Captain Petrukhin's subordinates are distinguished by their high skills in military work. For example, in loading a launcher each of the soldier's actions is strictly calculated and regulated and they do not waste even a part of the seconds. As a result, the soldiers of the battery's best crew which is commanded by Sergeant S. Kotenkov completed this operation 30 seconds faster than the norm. This crew's high coordination and skill is considered the standard in the battalion.

Combat firing recently concluded on the range and there the soldiers of the launcher battery operated with initiative, decisiveness and exceeded the established time norms under conditions as close as possible to combat. The soldiers won the single combat in many ways primarily due to their ability to use each minute of the battle with maximum efficiency and to anticipate the "enemy".

The basis of this is the aspiration to get more from the equipment than the designers put in and the desire and ability to conduct a battle, as the saying goes, at high speeds. How can one reach this level?

Captain Petrukhin feels that regardless of how well trained the anti-aircraft missile complex commander is and how clearly and coordinated the radar and launcher crews act, it is still necessary to allow time for a thorough analysis of the situation and for precise and resourceful action in making decisions to suppress the insidious actions of the aerial enemy. This is why he values every second saved in the process of combat work and this is why when he wants to win a battle against the enemy, he strives to win it primarily in single combat against time.

I share this officer's opinion. However, as experience shows, gaining time against norms still doesn't mean that you will win the battle itself. What is needed is the highest discipline, performance and each soldier's being conscious of personal responsibility for the assigned mission. Recently an exercise which took place in our battalion showed that one can skillfully master weapons but literally trip up the collective on trifles.

During this exercise I observed with special attention how Captain Petrukhin's battery completed its combat training mission. Sergeant S. Kotenkov's launcher position was not far from me. The transporter-loader vehicle entered the shelter perfectly and stopped exactly where it was supposed to. Just a few more seconds were spent checking assemblies on the launcher, the rocket itself and on the communications equipment. And then the guides were ready to take the missile and elevate its nose to the sky. But suddenly a hitch developed. The best launcher crew stumbled over a trifle. Through an oversight the bracket reinforcing one of the levers on the shaft had been knocked off by the crew. I know that these things happen. As the saying goes, once every hundred years, but they do happen. There is a reason for each member of the crew being responsible for reviewing and checking their post after combat training. Indeed, let this misfire occur in actual combat and who knows what the outcome would be. And all because one soldier was careless in completing his daily and it would seem his most commonplace duties.

This event became the topic for major, serious conversation in the battalion on the responsibility of specialists in completing their functional duties and about the fact that without discipline there are no high skill levels.

Then Captain S. Skokov, Sergeant Kotenkov who had himself been guilty and other soldiers talked about the subunit's honor and their words would have forced the indifference out of anyone.

Socialist competition in missions and norms and well-maintained technical propaganda helps us to improve skills. Recently a technical report on training results was released in the battalion. It initiated the fact that part of the electronics in the radar cab was put out of action as part of the exercise setting. And then the screen in front of operator Private V. Koleshuk showed vertical lines, sharp competition to find a quick, correct way out of the situation that had developed flared up among the soldiers.

The whole battalion, as the saying goes, became convinced with their own eyes of the value of the outstanding training of the best specialists. For example, Lieutenant N. Stepanov quickly got oriented to the situation and helped the firer determine the sequence of target arrivals in the killing zone and gave the commander the exact coordinates for the guidance radar to find the targets.

And operator Private Koleshuk didn't lose control. He quickly used another display screen and led the target perfectly. While this was going on the time that the soldiers spent on all these events was within the norm. The seconds saved in other operations helped.

Many of the battalion's soldiers are exceeding their norms. Yet they are not resting on their accomplishments but are boldly going forward for there are no limits in perfecting military skills.

12511

CSO: 1801/33

AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

USE, BENEFITS OF NEWLY DEVELOPED FLIGHT SIMULATOR DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Sep 84 p 2

[Article by Maj Gen Avn V. Gorbatykh: "Prompted by Life"]

[Text] Picture such an episode. A man heard the rumble of an airplane overhead. He looked up and saw the openness of the sky and the white contrail of an airliner. He could not help but think: "What freedom! Fly to wherever you want and nothing bothers you. Not like it is on the ground; intersections, traffic lights, the danger of collisions."

This is how not only people inexperienced in aviation sometimes picture air traffic, but, unfortunately, how some aviators do as well. But the fact is that even in the boundless expanse of the sky at times quite complicated situations develop which do not always have a happy ending. This happens, as a rule, in those cases where insufficiently trained but overly self-confident pilots take to the air and their flight is controlled on the ground by officials who are unable to assess quickly any unexpected development in the air, to make a knowledgeable decision and assist with timely advice an aviator who has gotten himself in a dangerous situation.

Thus, due to the ignorant and improperly developed actions of individuals of the flight control group headed by Lt Col A. Parshin, a helicopter crew permitted a serious flying safety hazard. Shortly after, a similar situation was repeated with the crew of a transport aircraft.

Similar incidents forced them to start thinking: Why, in a comparatively simple air and meteorological situation, does a dangerous air situation develop? What must be done to increase flight safety? Some time ago, these questions were the subject of a serious conversation at a meeting of the Air Force district military council. Much preparatory work had been done. Specifically, experienced inspector pilots checked the methods for training airplane and helicopter crews for carrying out combat training missions under the conditions of the Transcaucasus. Problems of aircrew interaction with ground service specialists were also examined. In short, air traffic control problems were analyzed.

A summarized analysis of the inspector groups' work showed that there are serious shortfalls in the organization and servicing of flights. The quality

of ground training of individual aviators did not correspond to the complexity of the missions being carried out. Flight control required greater precision and efficiency. There were no unified methods for training command post crews and their interaction with civilian sectors was lacking.

It is not possible to solve these problems purely theoretically by studying governing documents, instructions and regulations. It is necessary to confirm theory by practice and continually improve flight control skills, and not only when the crew is working in the air. Training of air traffic controllers has to start in the training classrooms and, thus, develop skills for operating under extreme conditions. A special simulator could facilitate doing all this.

But we did not have such a simulator. The Air Force military council instructed specialists to develop and design such a simulator complex. We had to start, as they say, from scratch. First of all, we needed to define the basic concept, nature and volume of tasks which were to be performed using the simulator and only then try to figure out what it should look like.

Innovator-enthusiasts headed by Maj V. Kulikov, senior duty officer for communications and electronics flight servicing, began searching for technical ways to convert this idea into reality. But, just as in any other creative work, the idea of developing a fundamentally new simulator did not have supporters alone. Certain comrades, including those holding rather responsible positions, expressed doubt in the feasibility of it. They alluded to the shortage of specialists, the lack of necessary equipment and gave other reasons; however, the work continued. As the complex simulator developed, less and less was heard from the skeptics.

A new simulator required new methods of instruction. Staff officers, colonels N. Bolotov and G. Manakin, worked with initiative on developing them.

Here we have the first practical lessons. The graphically showed the effectiveness of the new complex for training aviators in the classroom for flight control in an abruptly changing air situation. Already in the initial stage of operation the broad capabilities of the simulator have been revealed. It made it possible to check the level of knowledge and the soundness of skills of the officials controlling the flights, to practice the actions of shift crews when special occurrences come up in flight and to train weapons controllers in vectoring fighters to airborne targets and resolving problems of interaction between the various flight support services.

In our opinion, the chief advantage of the simulator is that it makes it possible to create a situation during the classes which most closely approximates the real situation. Using a television camera, artificially developed target data is photographed and superimposed on a real air situation pre-recorded on videotape. In a matter of seconds, the instructor can change the air situation, give various inputs and create special in-flight situations which require an instantaneous reaction and competent actions of the students.

The practical training is conducted according to a pre-outlined plan; however, this does not preclude improvisation, that is, changing the methodical

sequence and nature of the tasks being worked out at the decision of the supervisor. During the classes the supervisor not only supervises the students, but, as required, intervenes in their actions, acting more or less as an instructor. This increases his authority based on a high competence in using the equipment. The supervisor's participation in the training session makes it possible to learn thoroughly subordinates' level of training as well as their practical and moral-psychological qualities.

In the comparatively short period of time that has passed since the training complex became operational, we have been able to identify deficiencies in the training of duty-shift flight control personnel and eliminate them by means of purposeful training sessions.

With the help of the simulator we have managed to identify the lack of unified methods in training duty-shift air traffic control specialists. The complex has also helped identify another seemingly strange situation--each officer had a sufficiently thorough theoretical knowledge, but became flustered in a practical situation. The more complicated it became, the more mistakes made. There was direct evidence of a discontinuity of theory with practice.

The result of ground training of aviators using the new training complex was not long in coming. Here is an example. One day an alarm signal was received at a flight control command post--a thunderstorm had knocked out the navigational system on one of the aircraft. A similar incident took place before and had ended in a flight safety hazard; the flight control group proved to be unprepared for it. But in this situation, the on-duty personnel headed by Lt Col L. Babich provided timely assistance and guided the aircraft to one of the nearby airfields and ensured a safe landing--the result of experience gained during simulator training.

"It seems," the officers responsible for air traffic safety told me, "there is not a single complicated situation which we cannot make a model of and practice in advance in the simulator. After the training you always feel confident at the weapons control console...."

In short, the labor and effort of the enthusiasts have not been wasted. But, of course, all the problems have not yet been solved. One can argue about improving the methods of conducting classes and the methods of using equipment, but one thing is indisputably clear: life itself forces us to search for new ways to solve the complex problems of ensuring flight safety.

12567

CSO: 1801/025

AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

IMPORTANCE OF GOOD FLIGHT NAVIGATIONAL TRAINING EMPHASIZED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Oct 84 p2

[Article by Col V. Dudin, Honored Military Navigator of the USSR and candidate of military sciences: "But the Navigator Could Have Forewarned"]

[Text] The aircraft crew commanded by officer M. Chizhov was supposed to perform a cross-country training flight at night in dispersed combat formation from the diversion airfield to the permanent base airfield. Just the day before the aviators had flown over this route and seemingly no complications were foreseen.

It all started with the changing of the airfield's takeoff course. This was connected to the change in wind direction over the runway, is very familiar to all aviators and usually does not add any special complications to flights. However, this time the navigator, Sr Lt Drozdetskiy, did not understand that the take-off course had been changed by 180 degrees and set the reading of the course system for the previous value. The aircraft commander did not detect this great mistake either, having focused his attention on the aircraft taxiing past under the night conditions.

The crew, orienting themselves only according to the instrument readings where the error had been input, executed the departure maneuver in the wrong direction. Drozdetskiy did not make use of radio equipment or other means to update the coordinates as well as other navigational flight data and did not compare the readings of the course instruments as he was supposed to.

Then the crew completely lost their bearings. Only after a considerable amount of flight time, with the help of a command post which was in the vicinity of the airfield, was it brought to a "strange" landing strip where it landed with a limited fuel reserve. This was undoubtedly not the worst possible ending for such a flight.

Various opinions were expressed during the investigation of this exceptional incident. Some officers, especially those responsible for training the crew, maintained that, supposedly, many specialists were at fault here: those who were supposed to monitor the crew's departure from the airfield, those who were flying ahead and behind Chizhov's aircraft and, of course, those who

could observe from the ground command posts the crews deviation at the various stages of the flight route.

Undoubtedly, all the officials named have received the appropriate evaluation, each for his own dereliction. But the main threat to safety and the basic cause of this flight not carrying out the mission were created primarily by unsatisfactory crew navigational training. The requirements for the quality of navigational training are known. A crew (pilot), well trained in a navigational respect, must perform any cross-country flight precisely and reliably using primarily its onboard or, as the theory of air navigation states, autonomous equipment. Constantly relying on the assistance of ground control and monitoring agencies means to doom oneself to the probability of a flying safety hazard. It is also impermissible to make similar reliance on equipment which can be knocked out of commission, say, "jammed" by interference or neutralized by the enemy. But such incidents, unfortunately, still take place in the practice of flights.

Undoubtedly, every navigator strives to preclude the development of dangerous in-flight situations which are his fault. But experience shows that it is one thing to wish to prevent such hazards and something else altogether to know and be able to accomplish this in practice, in the complicated dynamic conditions of today's flight plans and in the course of carrying them out.

A key condition to ensuring safety is the high personal navigational training of navigators and pilots. This must be the subject of concern of command as well as each aviator directly.

It is no secret that the use in navigation of increasingly complex electronic equipment and devices for automated, programmed air navigation has decreased the desire to learn thoroughly and use in practice all methods and capabilities of air navigation, especially those which are characterized by rather laborious operations and calculations.

Some comrades believe that automation itself will do everything. They also forget that counting on any one means of air navigation, even if it is seemingly the most reliable, often leads to serious navigation errors.

That is how it was in the relatively distant past when individual navigators got carried away with visual orientation, not combining it with plotting on the map. That is how it was later when, with the advent of the radio compass and then onboard radar, some navigators began to develop primitive skills--flying only from homing beacon to homing beacon or not taking their eyes off the radar scope. In so doing, they forgot about visual orientation altogether. This is also how it sometimes happens in the age of automated navigation systems, when the most commonly used instruments at times are the counters for the current coordinates and for the distance to the next turning point on the flight route. But what if, for some reason, these counters suddenly either stop or, worse yet, an instrument or systematic error builds up in their readings?

The practice of flying teaches that only comprehensive air navigation, when basic navigational data (heading, speed, altitude and coordinates) are

systematically measured and compared by all possible methods in a given situation, guarantees not only precise, but also reliable and safe air navigation under practically any conditions. If navigator V. Drozdetskiy had followed the aforementioned rule, he immediately, still during the departure from the airfield, would have detected the error in the heading. To do this he had to compare the values of the gyroscopic course with the magnetic course, then take into account the readings of the radio compass and the radio navigation system and then use the onboard radar.

In a navigational respect, flight safety is more reliably ensured when navigational flight competitions and training sessions on solving applied problems (navigation "exercises") are conducted creatively with aircrews and the actions are played through with the complication of the navigational situation and partial malfunction of navigation instruments. Good experience has been gained, for example, in the aviation unit where, until recently, officer V. Tyutyunnik supervised the navigation service. The high exactingness of navigational training not only of navigators but pilots as well here is being reinforced by methods developed in detail for teaching crews the comprehensive use of all equipment, especially during special situations. This enables the crew in just a matter of years to perform extended flights at a maximum distance under conditions of featureless terrain and powerful jet streams without dangerous flight safety hazards.

Improving the work of instructor navigators on flights during instruction and checking out subordinates can be a very important reserve for increasing the safety and reliability of air navigation. If elements of pilots' techniques of piloting and operating equipment are checked specifically (for example, landing approach under complicated weather conditions according to duplicate instruments, getting out of a complicated situation, landing with one engine shut down for airplanes and with an autorotating rotor for helicopters, etc.), then checking navigation skills and the level of their navigational training often proceeds formally, without any input for the person being checked.

But you see it is possible, according to a plan thought out in advance and approved by the aircraft commander, on the flight to give the trainee the course after the next turning point with a 10-20-degree error, give him the command "prepare for the turn" at the next point 10-15 minutes early and require him to calculate the course and flight time to the alternate airfield from the present position on the flight route. All of this will help form in the trainee useful navigational self-control, concentration and accuracy.

Coordination of the actions of the aircraft commander and navigator in the air is exceptionally important for flight safety. A pilot having good navigational training and knowing the specifics of navigation work at various moments of the flight never distracts the navigator and will not express grievances in the air. Without this it is impossible to establish a good working atmosphere on the crew which ensures mutual comradely assistance to one another during flight. Rudeness and peremptory abruptness on a flight can lead to fatal consequences.

Here is graphic example of such a situation. Officer V. Aprelkin (since removed from his position), piloting the lead helicopter in a group, rudely

and abruptly cut short the reports of a young navigator and disregarded his calculations. As a result, the group of helicopters deviated considerably from the assigned route, did not arrive at the designated terminal point and the assault force was not landed in the required place. This seriously complicated the paratroopers' execution of the combat training mission.

The overwork of some navigators, especially of a number of supervisors, with work not fully relative to them contributes to a decrease in flight safety. Sometimes they are obligated to work out in detail questions of cooperation with other arms and services, make tactical calculations, prepare demonstration maps and diagrams and develop various documents having nothing to do with flight navigational support. "Our navigator is competent, good at calculations and can draw--it's up to him," is usually how the immediate superior explains the navigator's workload.

Undoubtedly, the specific nature of a navigator's work closely approximates the activities of a staff, command post or other control organ officer. One usually cannot manage to develop a single exercise or other measure with actual or hypothetical aircraft takeoffs without a navigator. But, above all, this must not interfere with a navigator's performance of his basic functional duties, first and foremost of which is ensuring flight safety.

At the same time, quite an interesting characteristic can be traced in certain flying safety hazards--a hazardous situation arose which was not the fault of the navigator, but then its development could have been stopped in the very beginning by competent actions. Such instances include mistakes or deliberate violation by individual pilots and flight control group officials of various elements of the flight calculation and routine. Sometimes, for example, they do not maintain safe altitudes, especially in mountainous terrain; flight level when intersecting airways; patterns on descent and approach for landing, on takeoff and on landing, etc.

Navigators do not always take into account and sort out such instances since they pertain to shortcomings in organization, flight control and improper pilot actions. However, in our opinion, another principle is more appropriate here--one must teach not only those who created the emergency situation, but also the navigators who could have localized its appearance and development by a timely suggestion. In this way, the navigational service will make an additional contribution to increasing the flying safety and combat readiness of subunits (podrazdeleniye) and units (chast').

12567

CSO: 1801/025

NAVAL FORCES

CREW CRITICIZED FOR POLLUTING OCEAN DURING REFUELLING

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Sep 84 p 2

[Article by Lt Col Justice N. Sokolov, senior assistant judge advocate of the Red Banner Pacific Fleet: "Hazardous Spill"]

[Text] Aerial photography from a helicopter of the basin administration for regulating the use of and for the protection of waters recorded a large iridescent spot on the blue mirror-like surface of the ocean bay. The culprit ship was well visible on the photograph in the center of the hazardous spill, as specialists call the contamination of the water area. Inspectors soon visited them.

No, they did not detect any extraordinary circumstances which could somehow excuse what had happened. Order reigned on the ship, the seamen were executing combat training missions in an organized manner and were vigilantly doing their duty. It was as if only the process of refuelling the ship fell out of the overall precise rhythm. Neither the commander of the electromechanical combat unit, Sr Lt S. Marfenko, nor his subordinates apparently had heard about how a refuelling was supposed to be organized. Therefore, they actually were not prepared for it and were occupied with other matters during it.

However, the adapting device ensuring the refuelling hose's contact with the tanks had been lost long ago and the refuelling was being done the old way--through a funnel. So, they should have been especially watchful and constantly check on the tanks filling up. But it turned out that there was no one to watch them and the fuel from overfilled tanks began to pour overboard.

This case is all the more instructive since it happened on a generally good ship, with people on the whole conscientiously carrying out their assigned duties. The only thing is that they break down their duties into important and secondary ones, and they relate, in particular, concern about economy and thrift and about protecting the environment to the latter.

The inspection showed, for example, that classes and talks on such topics were conducted on the ship extremely rarely and, moreover, were most general in nature. If the seamen were told any facts, as a rule, these facts did not have any practical bearing on the service. Let's say, a tanker sank

somewhere or there was an accident on an oil derrick located at sea.... But what each sailor and supervisor can and is obligated to do so that the water area around their ship is not polluted has remained unclear for the people. They also did not know about the responsibilities established by law for damage caused to nature. That is why, it appears, on the day of the ill-fated refuelling of the ship, somebody was shown that during the refuelling they could be diverted in the name of other more important, in their view, matters.

Many of the seamen are not familiar with the procedure for removing all kinds of waste and garbage from ships. I remember Seaman V. Perfil'yev, who, in order to clean up the bilge, willfully pumped overboard the severely contaminated water which had accumulated there. Was he surprised to find out that he did not have the right to do this. Moreover, how can one learn some or other rule if it is not actually put into practice. Let's say, on some ships there has not been a procedure developed for submitting requests for servicing by refuse-collection ships. Even some ship commanders sometimes have trouble picturing exactly who, at what times and to whom, they must submit such a request. Is it any wonder then that this Seaman Perfil'yev dealt with the contaminated water at his own discretion.

Also drawing attention to itself is the fact that the naval community often does not react at all to violations of environmental protection legal regulations by colleagues. Party and Komsomol organizations and people's controllers somehow find out about what happened only after the appropriate inspectors or military lawyers arrive on the ship. After all, a campaign for economy and thrift has been proclaimed on the ships. It appears that measures for protecting nature are not yet considered an important part of this struggle on individual ships. However, the half ton of fuel which poured out into the sea during refuelling of the ship is quite an obvious damage to its economics.

Finally, many violations of the rules of protecting nature are a consequence of ordinary lack of discipline of servicemen. Specific provisions of Navy Shipboard Regulations were violated by Sr Lt Marfenko and his subordinates. Seaman Perfil'yev ignored operating procedures near machinery. So, in this sense the concern for the respectful attitude of seamen toward our natural resources is also closely related to the concern for their attitude toward military duty and toward carrying out their service obligations. It is necessary to explain to people in detail the requirements of the corresponding documents and to hold them strictly responsible for their violations. It is necessary to organize the everyday life on each ship correctly and to propagandize the advanced experience of economy and thrift and protection of nature.

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CSO: 1801/025

MILITARY EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

ENTRY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR MOSCOW MILITARY POLITICAL ACADEMY

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 oct 84 p 4

[Announcement on enrollment into Moscow Military Political Academy]

[Text] The Military Political Academy imeni V. I. Lenin announces enrollment in full-time and correspondence graduate school study for the following specialties: history of the CPSU, dialectical materialism, history of philosophy, theory of scientific communism, political economy, military economics, party organizational development, party and political work in the Armed Forces, theory and history of pedagogy, military psychology, history of the communist and workers movement and national liberation movements.

Admission to full-time study is open to officers of the USSR Armed Forces who are on active duty, are members of the CPSU, have higher education and at least 2 years of practical work experience in the profile of the selected scientific specialty after graduating from the VUZ, have demonstrated an aptitude for pedagogical and scientific research activities and are up to 35 years for full-time and up to 40 years for correspondence study (age is determined as of 1 September of the year of enrollment).

Officers up to age 38, having a higher education and work experience in the position of deputy regimental commander for political affairs, its equivalent or higher are being accepted for the specialty "party organizational development and party and political work in the Armed Forces".

Application for enrollment in the graduate school is to be submitted through normal channels before 1 February of the year of admission. The application must indicate the following: whether the officer is entering full-time or correspondence study; the selected scientific specialty; what foreign language he speaks; duty and home address. The following must be submitted with the application: personal record; scientific works (both published and unpublished) and in their absence--a scientific essay on the selected specialty; notarized copies of the VUZ graduation diploma and an extract from the academic record; service and party-political records; a health certificate indicating the possibility of training in the graduate school; medical record (for those enrolling in full-time study); and record of service card. Individuals who have passed (completely or partially) the specified candidate examinations for a given specialty submit the certificate (form 2.2).

Commanders of military units (chast') and heads of military educational institutions are to submit officer applications with their conclusions and the listed documents through normal channels to the military district (fleet) selection boards no later than 15 February 1985. The lists of officers selected for admission to graduate school studies, with the documents, are to be sent, by the personnel agencies to the academy by 15 March 1985.

The enrollees take competitive entrance examinations in the bulk of the academy's courses of study for the special discipline, one foreign language (English, German, French) and history of the CPSU.

Enrollees in the specialty "History of the CPSU" take entrance examinations on history of the CPSU, foreign language and Marxist-Leninist philosophy.

Graduate school entrance examinations are given at the academy from 10 June to 9 July 1985.

The issue of exempting from entrance examinations those individuals who have passed candidate examinations and presented the certificate of this (form 2.2) with the application is decided on an case-by-case basis by the academy selection board.

Address inquiries to: 103107, Moscow, K-107, B. Sadovaya, 14, Military Political Academy imeni V. I. Lenin.

Telephone: 202-89-49

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CSO: 1801/20

MILITARY EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

YOUNG OFFICERS NOT TAUGHT, GIVEN OPPORTUNITY FOR LEADERSHIP

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Oct 84 p 2

[Article by Col Ye. Pokhlebkin: "Who Should Be Blamed?"]

[Text] One day, at one of the checks I happened to encounter the following case. The men of the platoon commanded by Lt V. Rodinkin demonstrated excellent results on all subjects of combat training. The platoon commander himself also demonstrated high individual skill in performing practice firings and driving an infantry combat vehicle (BMP). But when the tactical exercise began, the platoon itself functioned listlessly, without initiative and were unable to capture an advantageous line in the path of the "enemy" reserve and prevent its counter-attack aimed at the exposed flank.

After the exercise, we thoroughly analyzed this incident with the battalion commander who expressed the following opinion.

"In an individual respect, Rodinkin is a well-trained officer and a good specialist. But as a platoon commander he is weak. This is how he arrived from school--they did not impart commander's skills to him. That is why he is so slow in making the grade," the battalion commander said.

I tried to argue that obviously they had not done all they could in the subunit (podrazdeleniye) either so that the lieutenant's development as a commander went more quickly and successfully, but said nothing. I remembered a recent case which related directly to the topic of this conversation and thought: the officer's blaming the military school is in many ways well-founded.

The incident, which took place in the Far Eastern Officers Training School imeni Marshal Sovetskogo Soyuza K. K. Rokossovskiy, was as follows. A platoon of students demonstrated weak skills in servicing equipment at a check exercise. This was predetermined by obvious errors in instruction. The instructor, Lt Col V. Biryukov, instead of drawing the conclusion for himself, simply resented the examiner. He says the check is conducted with partiality and the examiner tries to "bombard" the students.

Possibly, this one case might not warrant attention, but it turns out that it is by no means an isolated incident.

At weapon training sessions, by way of illustration, the range officer did not even pay attention to safety violations in loading ammunition. The crews performed their missions without taking into account the changes in the tactical situation and did not keep an eye on the "enemy". Not only did the range officer not admonish anyone, he even commended them for the excellent firing and gave nearly everyone excellent evaluations.

Imagine these students as platoon commanders. Will they be able to train subordinates for operations under complicated conditions confidently, without leniency and oversimplification? It is not likely. Then one can assert with certainty that the lieutenants will have to "pick up" the knowledge and skills in the troops.

When this opinion was expressed to the department instructors, many agreed with it. However, they had an excuse for this: they say very little time is set aside for imparting commander and methodical skills to the students.

Little time.... This excuse is often given when speaking about the deficiencies in training future officers. In a number of schools, for some reason, by this kind of time they mean only "pure" hours allotted by the schedule for instilling commander skills. But after all, the entire training process and the entire way of life in the school provides the opportunity from the very start to instill in the students precisely those skills which they will need as commanders. They need only to know how to use these opportunities and to approach the organization of exercises, training sessions and the service itself thoughtfully and creatively. Such thoughtfulness and creativity is just what certain instructors and commanders are deficient in.

That is the way things stand not only at the aforementioned school. We encountered similar instances at the Chelyabinsk Higher Tank Command School imeni 50-letiya Velikogo Oktyabrya. Even the head of the tactics department, Col V. Doroshenko, did not cover questions related to instilling commander skills in students while he was conducting an instructional methods exercise with instructors.

Are not the instructors and commanders themselves concerned about the fact that certain graduates do not have sufficient skills for confident leadership of subordinates and "are deficient" in a tactical respect? Yes, they are concerned--more than once we have had the opportunity to be convinced of that. But, unfortunately, the concern is not by any means always followed by concrete deeds and a search for effective ways to increase the practical trend of instruction. However, there are both the capabilities and the experience to do this.

Just take the Chelyabinsk tank school. At a check exercise conducted by Maj V. Gomon a complicated and instructive exercise was properly set up and the students acted prudently, decisively and with initiative and exhibited elements of commander maturity. This was not the only exercise in which the instructor taught the students precisely as is required and precisely what a future officer cannot do without in practice. One would think that the

experience merits study and dissemination. But they are in no hurry to do this at the department.

A number of schools make wide use of weapon, drill and physical training and combat vehicle driving exercises for imparting to the students commander and methodical skills. Students there are designated in turns as assistant supervisors at firing ranges and driving areas and, under the supervision of the instructor or subunit commander, are entrusted to conduct the exercises and training sessions. Furthermore, the students themselves, fulfilling the role of the commander, analyze the actions of their comrades, summarize and give evaluations. Of course, the instructor or commander retains the right to make corrections and to approve or change the evaluations, which, by the way, often happens. But here it is important to make note of the approach itself and the trend toward searching for additional opportunities which contribute to the students' development as commanders. But even this experience is not always efficiently put into practice.

Strange as it may be, some of the department heads see a flaw in it. They say that such exercises decrease the effectiveness of teaching the subject itself and the quality of learning it since a considerable part of the time is devoted to instructing the students designated as assistant exercise leaders or commanders and to analyzing their actions. On the face of it, this is justified. However, practice shows that with a creative approach to organizing exercises, all the apparent costs pay for themselves many times over.

But I will go back to the incident mentioned at the beginning of the article. Who should be blamed for the fact that Lt Rodinkin and other young officers, having good individual training, turn out to be poor commanders? To begin with, the military schools and those instructors and commanders who were not able to arm their charges with everything necessary for confident official activity in the troops. Also, you cannot deny that the battalion commander is right who sees this as precisely the reason for the slow development of Lt Rodinkin.

For all that, it would be wrong to believe that the training of a future officer as a capable and mature commander can be completed within the confines of a school. At the school only the fundamentals of commander skills are put down and the initial experience of organizing training, combat and work with subordinates is acquired. A young officer can become a full-fledged commander and educator only in the troops.

One scarcely need mention how important help is during the first independent steps, and how important it is to try to see that these very first steps of a lieutenant turn out to be confident and firm ones and that mistakes and failures do not shackle his initiative or undermine faith in his own abilities.

Unfortunately, help from commanders frequently boils down to watching over the young officer and preempting his actions.

One tactical exercise has remained in my memory for a long time. A recent school graduate, Lt V. Kharsamov, and his comrades, also young officers, had prepared for it as if for a holiday. Then the tanks of the platoon arrived at the deployment line. Kharsamov was ready to give the command "Form extended line". But the company commander beat him to it.

In the course of the battle, the "enemy's" defenses were breached. Kharsamov decides that the momentum of the advance had to be increased. Again the company commander beats him to it:

"Falcons', increase speed!"

The crews increased speed. Shortly after, the lieutenant spotted "enemy" antitank guided missiles (ATGM's).

"Falcons'! Reference point 6, straight ahead 800--ATGM's," he started to task his subordinates.

At that very instant the voice of the company commander came over the radio:

"As you were! Platoon, at my command...."

After the exercise I saw the group of lieutenants. They were standing to the side and the look of them all expressed disappointment.

"I travelled for two days as a passenger in the tank," Lt Kharsamov uttered with a bitter grin.

"I too, essentially, did not give a single command," his comrade joined in the conversation. "Everything was decided for me, sometimes by the company commander, sometimes by the battalion commander."

Does this dialogue need comment? Is not such tutelage one of the reasons that some lieutenants become passive and lose taste for the service?

The accelerated development of young officers and their growth as commanders are the concern of both military schools and the troops. This must be a priority concern of the lieutenants themselves as well. It is no secret that there are many among them who think that school knowledge is quite sufficient for themselves and, having taken over command of a platoon, do not strive to expand and improve their knowledge or to enrich themselves with the experience of the best. I would like to address the words of M. V. Frunze to such officers, which still apply today: "Only he who will feel a constant dissatisfaction with himself...who will strive to expand his horizon and reinforce his theoretical and practical knowledge, he alone will not only not lag behind in war, but will take the lead and, perhaps, will lead dozens and hundreds of other people behind him."

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MILITARY HISTORY

MEMOIRS OF COL GEN L. SANDOLOV REVIEWED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Aug 84 p 2

[Article by Ret Col V. Arkhipov: "From the Chief of Staff's Position"]

[Text] Before dawn on 22 June 1941, Col Leonid Mikhaylovich Sandalov was roused from bed by an alarm. He never again returned to his quarters. He was serving then as chief of staff of the 4th Army, covering the border in the vicinity of Brest. The chief of staff of the 4th Ukrainian Front, Col Gen L. Sandalov, met the triumphant May Victory holiday in the just-liberated Prague.

Between 22 June 1941 and 9 May 1945 lay 1,418 long days of difficult war. L. Sandalov participated in them as chief of major staffs--army and front. His memoirs, "Posle pereloma" ["After the Turning Point"]*, were written from the chief of staff's position.

Gen Sandalov headed the staff of the 2d Pre-Baltic Front from October 1943 until March 1945. He was chief of staff of the 4th Ukrainian Front for the next month and a half. Both fronts conducted difficult stubborn fighting. In the course of 1.5 years, forces of the 2d Pre-Baltic step after step squeezed the enemy in the forested marshy plains of the northwest, and the 4th Ukrainian gnawed through the Carpathians. There are no sensations in L. Sandalov's memoirs. Nonetheless, today's officers will read them with interest. In the book are collected facts, opinions, and ideas of combat participants, and views are given of a profound observer. In a word, everything of high value that we call frontline experience. The author is rather self-critical. He does not hide the occasional mistakes and shortcomings of command and staff which occurred, including his own. That is why serious people learn not only in foremost experience, but also in experience which is adverse and at times difficult and bitter.

The past is not recurrent, and conditions in which the struggle of sides took place in the past war will never be repeated. But if this is so, why is it necessary to study old experience? Isn't he forcing people to think in categories long outmoded? No, he is not forcing them. The value of such studying is two-fold. By not taking cognizance of the old and not understanding in full the value of the new, one cannot see into the future. And looking into the future in our alarming time is necessary.

* L. Sandalov. "Posle pereloma." Voenizdat, 1983, 240 pages.

Gen Sandalov often visited the troops. And for the chief of staff of the front, used to doing business with messages, operations maps and estimates characterizing the fighting efficiency and means of the troops, a burning demand sometimes arose, immediately on the battlefield, to look at how the intentions and plans worked out by the staff were being accomplished. Judging by the book, the chief of staff's eyes saw much of note, to which the makers of combat experience themselves seldom turn their attention. Here is a characteristic episode.

The 125th Guards Latyshskiy Rifle Regiment attempted to force the sluggish river Atashe. However the enemy, covered in the bushes on the riverbank, invariably sunk all the rafts and boats. The attackers sustained large losses from artillery and machinegun fire, and the combat mission remained unfulfilled. Capt Orlov, a native of that locale, asked permission from the regiment commander to make his way with one company along the marsh, grown up with underbush of thick alder, to the deserted riverbank from where the enemy would not expect a strike. Having received an approval, Capt Orlov led his company through the seemingly-impassible marsh, forced the river covered with reeds, and delivered a sudden strike on the enemy from the rear. While the Hitlerites parried the daring strike of the company, the entire regiment succeeded in overcoming the water barrier.

The first step is the hardest. In forcing the river, the division commander Maj Gen A. Stuchenko had placed the entire 93rd Rifle Regiment on the marshy sector which was difficult to traverse. While the Hitlerites conducted a fire fight with the other two regiments trying to force the river, the 93rd Rifle Regiment made their way through the marsh, crossing to the other bank without a single shot. The regiment attacked the enemy from the flank and drove them from the river. It will be interesting to the reader to know that the 93rd Rifle Regiment was led by Lt Col I. Tret'yak, presently a general of the army.

As chief of staff, Gen Sandalov naturally gave much attention to intelligence. He writes about the brave, tireless reconnaissance men with respect and love. They were the all-listening ears and the all-seeing eyes of the command. Of course times are changing and the means of reconnaissance are improving. But even in new conditions, its principles remain unchanged. It is doubtful that anyone, for example, would be bold enough to declare obsolete the principle of continuous conduct of reconnaissance.

No, the recollections of frontline troops do not depreciate with time. Thus military memories, including the book of retired Col Gen Sandalov, are read with interest and great benefit.

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AFGHANISTAN

WORK OF SOVIET NURSES IN DRA DESCRIBED

PM251553 [Editorial Report] Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian on 20 October publishes on page 4 under the rubric "Place of Service: Afghanistan" a 2,000-word special correspondent A. Tarasov article datelined Kabul-Moscow and entitled "Courage of Kindness." It describes the life and work of Soviet nurses employed in an Afghan provincial hospital, concentrating on one Masha Gritsko, a nurse from Grodno, who has been working there for 1 year. She has led her parents to believe that she is working in a maternity home in Mongolia so that they should not worry about the dangers facing her in the DRA. The article describes the treatment of several Afghans injured in Dushman attacks, as well as mentioning one sergeant Volodya Mamonov who was once treated at the hospital. Some of the Soviet nurses reportedly travel to remote Afghan villages to set up clinics to treat poverty-related diseases and injuries inflicted by Dushmans.

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